

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

13 November 1978

DOCUMENT 431/78

ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 14, 15 and 16 November 1978

In accordance with the directives on the conduct of Question Time, questions may be answered only if the questioner is present or has notified the President in writing, before Question Time begins, of the name of his substitute.

Questions to the Commission which have not been answered on Tuesday for lack of time are called on Thursday. If the questioners are unable to attend, they may of course, notify the President in writing of the name of their substitute before the questions are called on Thursday.

1. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-184/78)

Subject : Independent airlines within the Community

What is the Commission doing to ensure that services which are being, or could be, provided by independent airlines within the Community (often between parts of the Community not previously linked directly) are not jeopardized by subsidized competition and unfair practices from state airlines?

2. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH(H-253/78)

Subject : Trade Agreement between the European Community and the People's Republic of China

When will the Joint Commission envisaged in the agreement convene, what will be its composition, and what matters does the Commission intend to put on the agenda of the Joint Commission in the light of Commissioner Haferkamp's recent visit to Peking?

3. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-256/78)

Subject : Sales to the Community of Soviet crude oil and refined products

A report by the Swedish consulting agency, Petrostudies, claims that the Soviet Union will capture by 1985 nearly a quarter of the West European market for crude oil and refined products. In view of the Community's need for diversified sources of crude oil and the need to make better use of excess refinery capacity, what is the Commission's policy in regard to Community imports of Soviet crude oil and refined products?

4. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-280/78)

Subject : Export Refunds for pork

Does the Commission intend to immediately eliminate the continuing anomaly whereby export refunds for boneless pork are the same as export refunds for pork sides?

o
o o

5. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-240/78)

Subject: Joint conference of EEC and ASEAN trade union representatives

In view of the recent decision to organize an EEC-ASEAN Conference on Industrial Cooperation in Jakarta, Indonesia on 26-28 February 1979 to bring together several hundred leading businessmen, bankers and government officials from the EEC and ASEAN to discuss projects relating to certain industrial sectors, is the Commission also prepared to help in organizing a joint conference of EEC and ASEAN trade union representatives covering these same industries?

6. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-250/78)

Subject : Permanent Representation of the Commission in Asia

Whether the Commission will open an office in New Delhi and finance it from savings from the closure of an office in a country which does not have parliamentary democracy?

o
o o

7. Question by Mr MULLER-HERMANN (H-305/78)

Subject : Restructuring of the man-made fibre industry

What decisions has the Commission reached with the governments of the Member States with regard to the restructuring of the man-made fibres industry?

o
o o

8. Question by Mr van AERSSON (H-297/78)

Subject: Design modifications to the SBR 300 fast breeder reactor in Kalkar

What is the Commission's view of the proposals by the North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of Agriculture, Mr Riemer, to change completely the design of the SBR 300 fast breeder in Kalkar and what steps is it taking to ensure that the project is not further jeopardized by the equivocal attitude of the North Rhine-Westphalia Land Government?

9. Question by Mr POWER (H-298/78)*

Subject : European Community Cultural Week

Would the Commission consider promoting a major European Community cultural week each year, rotating among the Member States, where examples of the various cultures of Europe - song, dance, theatre, art, etc. - could be highlighted?

* Will not be called if item 275 is kept on the agenda

10. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-260/78)

Subject: Increase in milk production

In view of the expanding increase in milk production in the Community what steps does the Commission intend to take to deal with this problem?

o
o o

11. Question by Mr PATIJN (H-291/78)

Subject: Accession of the European Community to the European Convention on Human Rights

Would the Commission be in favour of the European Community's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, and would it prefer this to the guarantee of certain basic rights solely by decision of the Court of Justice of the European Communities or the unilateral incorporation of the relevant provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights into Community legislation, and what timetable does the Commission consider realistic for the European Community's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights?

12. Question by Mr CALEWAERT (H-292/78)

Subject: Accession of the European Community to the European Convention on Human Rights

If the European Community is to become party to the European Convention on Human Rights, what conditions, in the Commission's view would have to be fulfilled in respect of the provisions of this Convention?

13. Question by Mr FORNI (H-293/78)

Subject: Accession of the European Community to the European
Convention on Human Rights

As guardian of the Community Treaties, does the Commission feel that the powers and importance of the national courts, on the one hand, and of the European Court of Justice, on the other, would be undermined if the European Community acceded to the European Convention on Human Rights?

o
o o

14. Question by Mr SOURY (H-296/78)

Subject: Commission classification of categories of wine-growing areas

Can the Commission explain its proposals for the wine sector?

Which regions in Italy and France come into the three categories defined in the Commission proposal: maintenance of vines, ban on new plantings, grubbing up of vines?

o
o o

15. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-300/78)

Subject: Negotiation of a new air transport agreement between
the United Kingdom and Scandinavia

Does the Commission intend, in connection with the negotiation of a new air transport agreement between the United Kingdom and Scandinavia, to draw the attention of the British and Danish Governments to the fact that the judgment of the Court of Justice of 4 April 1974 specifies that the EEC Treaty provisions on agreements restricting competition and abuse of a dominant position in a substantial part of the common market (Articles 85 and 86) also apply to air transport?

In the event of dissatisfied private airlines wanting to lodge a complaint, should they do so at the European Court of Justice or in national courts?

o
o o

16. Question by Mr BROWN (H-302/78)

Subject : Meeting place for the elected European Parliament

In view of the acute pressure on hotel accommodation in and transport facilities to Strasbourg and Luxembourg will the Commission initiate an independent study of the infrastructure requirements of any city seeking to provide a meeting place for the elected European Parliament, taking into account its increased membership and staff, the necessity of satisfying the expected growth of press and public interest in its activities, and the further consequences of the enlargement of the Community?

o
o o

17. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-303/78)

Subject : Exchange Controls on Capital Movements

Has the Commission now completed its end-year review of the continuing existence of United Kingdom exchange controls on capital movements and will the Commission make a recommendation to the British Government ?

o
o o

18. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-304/78) *

Subject : Health education in EEC schools

Does not the Commission feel that, in order to achieve a new quality of life, it is important to awaken in EEC schools an awareness of health problems centred on accident prevention, on addiction to drugs, tobacco and alcohol, on the excessive use of pharmaceutical products, and on the pathological and socio-economic effects of pollution and environmental disturbances?

o
o o

Will not be called if item 274 is kept on the agenda

19. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-306/78)

Subject : Study on the grey seal in the North Sea

What steps has the Commission taken to initiate a study on the grey seal in the North Sea ?

20. Question by Lord MURRAY of GRAVESEND (H-310/78)

Subject : Information for Community citizens concerning their rights to social security, health benefits etc., in other member states

Is the Commission aware that many Community citizens are not aware of their social security and health benefit rights when in other member states, nor of the ways and means of availing themselves of these rights; and will it immediately establish an information campaign to make people aware of these rights, and how they can avail themselves of them?

21. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-312/78)

Subject : Aids under the Social Fund for the employment of girls

Does the Commission make any conditions to the member states, when granting aid for training of the young unemployed under Article 501 of the Social Fund, that a proportion of such aid should be given over to measures to combat unemployment among young girls; will the Commission ensure that such a provision is included in the proposals it is at present preparing?

22. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-315/78)

Subject : Liberalising Public Purchasing Policy in the Community
in Telecommunications and Data Processing Equipment

To what extent are Community and national bodies conforming with the Commission's directives liberalising public purchasing policy in the Community in Telecommunications and Data Processing Equipment and are the industries involved satisfied that progress is being made in establishing an in-depth strengthening of the Community's industry against competition from USA?

23. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-323/78) *

Subject: EC funds to combat the crisis in the steel industry

On 20 November 1978 the Commission will be presenting a proposal to combat the crisis in the steel industry in 1979. How will the EC funds under this proposal be divided up among the following sectors:

- restructuring,
- social projects,
- research,
- new jobs for unemployed workers from steel-producing areas?

24. Question by Mr ELLIS (H-324/78)

Subject : Financial aid measures for coal and nuclear energy

The British Government has recently announced a £ 17 million scheme to sell an additional 3 million tons of coal to power stations during the winter period to help reduce current stocks of 30 million tons. Are similar measures being taken by other Member State Governments, and what short-term measures can the Commission take to encourage such schemes?

* Will not be called if item 263 is kept on the agenda

25. Question by Mr HOFFMANN (H-327/78) *

Subject: Customs duties on steel products

Why have customs duties on steel products not been put on a Community basis, and would not this revenue, if it were available to the Community, serve to fill the gaps in the steel restructuring programme and to finance wider programmes for the creation of alternative jobs?

26. Question by Mr IBRÜGGER (H-328/78) *

Subject: Elimination of excess capacity in the steel sector

Does the Commission still stand by its forecast that, in order to eliminate excess capacity in the steel sector, an annual 40 million tonnes of production capacity must be shut down in the Community, and in what proportions would these reductions be accounted for by:

- measures voluntarily taken by steel undertakings, and
- reductions effected according to productivity, labour market or regional criteria, or possibly on a percentage basis?

27. Question by Mr SHAW (H-329/78)

Subject : Directive on the harmonisation of excise duties
on alcohol

What action has been taken to date on the European Parliament's Opinion (Doc. 154/74) (1) on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for a Directive on the harmonisation of excise duties on alcohol (2)?

(1) OJ No C 48 of 25.4.1974, p. 8

(2) OJ No C 43 of 29.4.1972, p. 25

* Will not be called if item 263 is kept on the agenda

28. Question by Mr BRUGHA (H-330/78)

Subject : Small and medium sized undertakings

What progress has the Commission made in formulating a policy for small and medium sized undertakings?

29. Question by Mr HALVGAARD (H-332/78)

Subject: Community stocks of skimmed milk powder

How large are the Community's stocks of skimmed milk powder and where are they located?

30. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-333/78)

Subject : Emergency Aid to East and South East England

Following the Commission's negative answer to my question on this subject in the first October part-session, has the Commission yet been informed by the British Government of how the 1 million EUA given by the Commission as emergency aid to East and South East England following the storms of 11 and 12 January 1978 have been allocated, and if not what action does the Commission intend to take to elicit this information ?

31. Question by Lord CASTLE (H-334/78)

Subject : Progress of the GATT negotiations

Will the Commission make a further statement on the progress of the GATT negotiations and what steps are they taking to obtain a continuation of the United States countervailing charges waiver after 3 January 1979 ?

32. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-335/78)

Subject : Law of the Sea Conference

How does the Commission assess the present state of progress at the UN Law of the Sea Conference?

33. Question by Mr PRESCOTT (H-337/78)

Subject : UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

What is the Commission's view of reported plans by some Member States to pass legislation enabling deep sea mining operations in advance of agreement on a UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, thus jeopardizing the success of the UN conference?

34. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-339/78)*

Subject : Discrimination against the children of migrant workers in the field of vocational training and access to employment

Is the Commission aware of the Regulation currently in force in the Federal Republic of Germany refusing the right to vocational training and access to employment to children of migrant workers who have joined their parents since 1 January 1976; also is it aware that similar practises exist in other Member States and what measures will it propose to deal with this situation?

35. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-340/78)

Subject : Equal pay for men and women

In May of this year¹ the President of the Commission promised the House that he would be able to give a full analysis of the replies of the Member States to the questionnaire on equal pay for men and women. Is he now in a position to give us this analysis and what infringements and shortcomings in Member States have come to light?

* Will not be called if item 274 is kept on the agenda

¹ Sitting of 11 May 1978, Annex No. 230 P. 218 Question 17

36. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-261/78)

Subject : Increase in milk production

In view of the expanding increase in milk production in the Community, what steps does the Council intend to take to deal with this problem?

37. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-274/78)

Subject : Milk Surplus

Is the Council satisfied that adequate provision has been made for reducing milk surpluses at an early date?

38. Question by Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT (H-290/78)

Subject: Accession of the European Community to the European Convention on Human Rights

What conditions must be fulfilled or difficulties overcome in the Council's view, before the European Community can become party to the European Convention on Human Rights, and what steps does it feel must be taken to this end?

39. Question by Mr VAN AERSSEN (H-301/78)

Subject : SKYLAB

Can the Council say exactly when, according to NASA calculations, the 76-ton American SKYLAB space vehicle will plunge back to earth and to what extent this poses a serious threat to the population of the zone concerned?

40. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-307/78)

Subject : Non-utilisation of Community funds

Since October, what action has the Council taken with regard to non-utilisation of appropriations for payments from the Social and Regional Funds, as illustrated in the report on the Financial Situation of the European Communities on 30 June 1978 recently submitted by the Commission to Council and Parliament, and what action does it plan to take ?

41. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-311/78)

Subject : Community Passport and illegal régimes

Has the Council given any thought to the problem of the granting of Community Passports to persons with dual nationality, particularly in the cases of individuals who are citizens of illegal régimes, such as Rhodesia, but who maintain the right to a passport from a Community member state?

42. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-314/78)

Subject : Sea pollution

In view of the resolution of the European Council on April 1978 (1) on the prevention of sea pollution, particularly pollution through accidental oil spillages, and in view of the fact that a series of measures on accident prevention have already been proposed by the Commission to the Council, could the Council give an indication when it might be possible to hope for a set of Community standards on oil tankers and their crews?

(1) OJ C No 162 of 8.7.1978, p. 1

43. Question by Mr DE CLERCQ (H-318/78)

Subject: UK energy policy

The annual conference of the British Labour Party rejected, almost unanimously, any Community control over the UK's energy policy.

Can the Council say whether this attitude will make it impossible to arrive at a common energy policy?

44. Question by Mr SCHREIBER (H-320/78)*

Subject : Community Policy on Adult Education

What progress is being made in the development of Community Policy on Adult Education?

45. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-321/78)

Subject : Investment and employment

What has the Council done to promote investment in the Community designed to increase employment.

46. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-322/78)

Subject : Trade Boycott

Is the Council aware that the United Arab Republic is facing a threat from the Administrators of the Anti-Israeli Boycott, to be included in the "Black List" of countries and companies with whom all economic relations must be severed?

x) This question will not be called if item 274 of the draft agenda, which includes the oral question with debate to the Council on Community action on education (Doc. 339/78), is retained.

47. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-336/78)

Subject : Law of the Sea Conference

How does the Council assess the present state of progress at the UN Law of the Sea Conference?

48. Question by Mr PRESCOTT (H-338/78)

Subject : UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

What is the Council's view of reported plans by some Member States to pass legislation enabling deep sea mining operations in advance of agreement on a UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, thus jeopardizing the success of the UN Conference?

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

49. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-272/78)

Subject : Elections in Namibia

Will the Ministers recognize the new State of Namibia if it is declared independent following the elections which South Africa proposes to hold there at the end of November 1978 without United Nations supervision?

50. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-309/78)

Subject : Equipment for rocket launching

Will the Foreign Ministers take urgent steps to prohibit the export of any industrial equipment capable of being used in launching rockets by any african country particularly of the type being used by the O.T.R.A.G. Company in Zaire?

51. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-325/78)

Subject : Abuse of diplomatic privileges

When do the Nine Foreign Ministers expect to receive the report of the sub-group which they have set up to investigate, in the context of efforts to combat terrorism, the abuse of diplomatic privileges by the representatives of certain countries in the Nine?

